



Awards



Thursday, May 18, 2017

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ivy Tech Community College-Valparaiso, Indiana



EVENT SCHEDULE

Reception

Ivy Tech Atrium

Welcome

Kris Emaus, Chair—Works Council of NW Indiana

Special Presentation

Anthony Sindone, Clinical Assistant Professor of Finance/Economic
Development—Purdue University Northwest

Awards

Awards presentation will take place in the auditorium

No food or drinks in the auditorium

Closing Remarks

Career & Technical Education Programs Represented

AK Smith Career Center

Area Career Center of Hammond

Crown Point High School

Hobart High School

Porter County Career & Technical Center

Starke Co. Initiative or Lifelong Learning (SCILL) Center

*Special thanks to Ivy Tech for providing space for today's event and to The
Discovery Alliance for kindly donating the gift cards for recipients.*

Award Recipients



Sandra Almanza- Area Career Center (ACC) of Hammond

Sandra Almanza was in the Cosmetology program at ACC. Her enthusiastic attitude was contagious as it encouraged her peers to excel. As a member of the SkillsUSA, she competed in the regional competition placing 1st in Cosmetology. Sandra was chosen by her instructor to represent her program on ACC's Student Advisory Council. As a representative, she volunteered her time to lead fundraising activities, host tours, and recruit perspective students. She took her talents and compassion for others outside of ACC where she volunteered as "Prom Genie" to provide services to do hair and make-up for girls who could not afford it. While attending ACC she interned at Betty's Salon practicing her skills in hair, nails, and facials. Since graduation, Sandra has opened her own salon—Armani's Beauty Salon in Hammond. While she manages the salon, she is also attending Purdue University Northwest to pursue a bachelor's degree in business.

Kevin Babinec- A.K. Smith Career Center

Kevin demonstrated exemplary work ethic while enrolled in the welding program at AK Smith. His drive for success started when he was able to obtain a position on his own at an internship site. He competed in the SkillsUSA regional contest and placed 6th. He was invited to compete in the Local 597 Pipefitters Union Skills contest during his senior year. After graduation, Kevin attended Ivy Tech of Valparaiso and South Bend before he left to be in the Ironworker Local 292 of South Bend's apprenticeship program. On his spare time he volunteers with food drives, Christmas time decorations, needy family collections, and parades to represent his union. He is certified by the American Welding Society (AWS) and his Union Hall for welding.

Hunter Brooke- SCILL/Knox

Hunter entered the SCILL Welding program without any background in welding. He was a quick learner and by the end of his first year he was helping other first year students. He received AWS D1 welding certifications and was runner-up for SCILL welder of the year. He earned an internship at a large local welding company, Kruz, Inc. Hunter was asked to come in after internship hours. He was later offered a full-time position after graduation. Over time, a Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 position became available. After applying he was accepted and has begun his apprenticeship where he drives from Knox to East Chicago for his training each day.

Brent Brown- Crown Point

Brent started his freshman year in Crown Point High School's Precision Machining Technology program. He was a natural and his instructor was excited to move him into the double block class for more advanced projects. He ended up moving to Iowa and then returning his junior year where he returned to the program. He was able to get into an internship program at the high school. During his time in the program, he earned multiple college credits for Precision Machine Tool Technology. He also earned various certifications through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) for turning, threading, milling, and drilling procedures. After graduation, Brent accepted full-time employment at The Progress Group that also came with a 4-year apprenticeship program through the Valparaiso Apprenticeship Council.

Austin Burton- SCILL/Knox

Austin came into the automotive repair program at the SCILL Center with enthusiasm and aptitude for auto repair. He was always lending a helping hand during and after class hours to any student that needed it. He willingly used his talents with no compensation in mind to fix cars for people in the community. Austin was awarded the "Above & Beyond" award due to his dedication and willingness to help others. He actively participated in community service projects such as leaf raking, coat drives, car shows, mentoring boy scouts, and volunteering at the Knox Christian Church. He competed in the SkillsUSA competition both his junior and senior year, placing 3rd in the regional competition, and 5th in at state. This

made him the first SCILL's student to place at the state level. While in the program he earned an internship at Truck City in Gary. Austin then applied and interviewed at Truck City for a select apprenticeship program. He was selected and has earned over 75 diesel certifications since.

Savannah Caudillo- Area Career Center (ACC) of Hammond

Savannah took her responsibilities to heart while she was in the Early Childhood Education program at ACC. She made sure that she was a part of every community service project, participant in tours, back-to-school nights, and presentations to incoming 8th grade and sophomore students. While she was at ACC, she interned with Woodmar Community Preschool, and the Hammond Head Start program at Edison Elementary School while maintaining her academics. Savannah has continued to follow her career at Butler University. She was recognized by professors as "Outstanding Student in the College of Education." One of Savannah's most recent accomplishments includes being nominated by university professors to be on a book project because of her outstanding work in a children's literature class. She co-wrote a children's book on oncology titled, *Lucas the Lion Fights Leukemia*.

Sarah Dodson- Area Career Center (ACC) of Hammond

Sarah had a positive attitude and strong work ethic during her time in the Cosmetology program at ACC. She always gave extra by volunteering her time in and out of the classroom. She participated in the St. Balderick's fundraiser, a Thanksgiving food drive, organized events to raise money for the Hammond Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.), and provided free cosmetology services for the Carmelit Home for Children. She was chosen to be on the Student Advisory Council at ACC due to her strong attendance, leadership abilities, and academic performance. Sarah practiced her talents through an internship with The Scissori Salon in Highland where she was later hired on. She continues to work at the salon while she attends Indiana University Northwest (IUN) studying business to fulfill her dream of one day opening her own salon.

Elizabeth Follis- Porter County Career & Tech Center (PCCTC)

During Elizabeth's time at the Porter County Career & Tech Center, she excelled in the Health Occupations program through leadership and participation in class activities. She actively explored career options within the nursing field through job shadowing at Opportunity Enterprises and Washington Township Elementary School. She was an active member in Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and the American Disability Association (ADA). Elizabeth went through training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. She received certifications in First Aid/CPR, and Animal First Aid/CPR. She selflessly volunteers her time outside of her academics for blood drives and events hosted by Opportunity Enterprises. Elizabeth continues to pursue her nursing career in the nursing program at Ivy Tech Community College.

Nathan Kietzman- Hobart

Nathan took advantage of the Welding and Construction Technology program at Hobart High School to begin working towards his career. His willingness to go beyond the basic material and dedication to learning demonstrates his commitment to success. He participated in numerous fundraisers for his program and school. He volunteers his time at a senior center and works with his church to serve individuals in need. Nathan is now in his second year of the Ironworker Local 395 apprenticeship program. He has taken advantage of every certification and training opportunity within the program resulting in becoming OSHA 30 certified, CPR/First Aid trained, and WELD Certified with A1.

Billy E. Lawson III- SCILL/Knox

Billy was an outstanding student in the automotive program at the SCILL Center. At graduation he was awarded, "Top Gun," SCILL's highest award. He always took great pride in whatever task he was assigned, and never hesitated to mentor other students in need of assistance. Billy happily volunteered his time for community service projects providing his talents to help anyone in need. Billy was presented the opportunity to intern at Truck City in Gary while he was at the SCILL center. After graduation, he was accepted into Truck City's diesel apprenticeship program. During his time in the program he has earned over 50 diesel certifications.

Joshua Leverich- Porter County Career & Tech Center (PCCTC)

Joshua completed two years of the Electronics and Computer Technology program at PCCTC. During that time he was involved in the PCCTC's alternative energy project and completed his Electronics Technicians Association certification. He volunteered his time regularly working on projects for the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Valparaiso. He received both technical and academic honors diplomas from Valparaiso High School. Joshua enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMC) his senior year in high school and graduated from boot camp the following summer. He received his USMC Ground Radio Repair Course Certification after completing a year of radio repair training in California. Joshua is enrolled in the Electronics Engineering Program at Purdue University West Lafayette.

Cory Locher- Crown Point

Cory was determined early on in high school to pursue a Precision Machining career. He came into the career and technical education class at Crown Point High School his freshman year, and after one year decided that he was interested in taking the next level of the class. During his junior year, he participated in a job shadowing program that allowed him to visit several facilities in line with his career pathway. He was offered a paid internship for his senior year. He received various certifications through the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) for turning, threading, milling, and drilling procedures. Upon graduation, Cory accepted an offer of full-time employment and enrollment in a four year apprenticeship program with American Precision Services.

Brock Majchrzak-SCILL/Knox

Brock took to welding immediately as he entered SCILL's two year Vocational Welding Program. The quantity and quality of his work was so exceptional that it was used as examples in class. During his second year, he volunteered often to come in to help the adult classes and participate in community service projects. He was accepted into an internship at Simon Speed Shop where his welds had to be precise; and he excelled. Before he graduated, he had earned more American Welding Society certifications than any student in the history of that program. He was awarded the SCILL Proficiency Award and Welder of the Year for his outstanding work. After

graduation, Brock accepted a millwright position, but his dream was to be a part of the Pipefitters. He took the entrance exam and has been accepted into the Pipefitters 597 apprenticeship accelerated program.

Eric McClintock- A.K. Smith Career Center

Eric was committed to learning and working hard in A.K. Smith Career Center's Energy Academy program. Eric took advantage of resources such as NIPSCO mentoring field trips and job shadowing opportunities to continue on his career path. He earned the Energy Industry Fundamentals Certification (EFI) from the Center for Energy Workforce Development, OSHA 10 certification, two of the NCCER certifications in Core Curriculum and Electrical 1. Eric took the Electricians Union test and scored the highest they had seen anyone score in years. He has been accepted into the Electrical apprenticeship program and continues to work full-time at Circle R Electric.

Xiara Moreno- Porter County Career & Tech Center

Xiara has demonstrated confidence and individual growth as she went through the Dental Health Careers program. She was involved in collecting and donating oral hygiene supplies to Heartland Alliance of Chicago, Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse, and local Elementary Schools. Xiara donated gifts for children through Toys for Tots and volunteered in the YMCA's Summer Olympics. She is a member of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), National Honor Society (NSH), and The National Society of High School Scholars. Xiara continues to follow her career path at Indiana University Northwest (IUN).

Emma Jo Prucha- Area Career Center (ACC) of Hammond

Emma's passion for culinary & pastry arts is her motivation and drive for pursuing her dream of being an industry leader in hospitality. While at ACC, she spent her time on the Student Advisory Council and volunteering as much as she could for community service projects. She kept her skills sharp as she worked different jobs and positions in the food industry while attending ACC. Emma has continued to pursue her dream at Joliet Junior College. She has been involved in a variety of college-based associations including the award winning Joliet College Cooking Team.

Tristan Spiegel- Area Career Center (ACC) of Hammond

Tristan exhibited excellent work ethic, dedication, and problem solving skills during his time in the Industrial Maintenance/Welding program at ACC. He challenged himself by participating in multiple competitions for his career path. He competed in the 2014 Simeon Career Academy Welding Contest in which he placed 3rd, and the 2015 Annual Pipefitter Local 597 Welding Contest where he placed 9th. Other competitions he competed in include the SkillsUSA competition for Industrial Motor Control in 2015, and Welding in 2016. He placed 1st in the regional competition for both categories. Tristan continues to give back to ACC by returning to share his knowledge and experience to other classmates. He graduated a month early after he passed the tests and interviews to become an Apprentice with the Pipefitters Union Local 597 as he continues to work for Midwest Mechanical in Chicago, IL.

Kennedy Starcevich- Porter County Career & Tech Center (PCCTC)

Kennedy was in the Video Productions and Media Studies program at PCCTC. She took her passion and studies outside of the career center as she spent her weekends working on student film projects. She has received several awards from the Indiana Student Broadcasters Association. She was the recipient of the Gabe Myers Video Productions scholarship for her excellence in the video production trades. Kennedy continues on her career path as she studies film at Columbia College Chicago. She attends deaf events regularly around campus and Chicago as she aspires to one day create an organization that spreads awareness about deaf culture.

Ashly Thalmann- Porter County Career & Tech Center (PCCTC)

Ashly excelled as an active leader and participant in the Health Careers program at PCCTC. She has completed 80 clinical hours to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and earned certifications in CPR and First Aid. She shows strong compassion in others with her dedication to active participation in community service projects and volunteer opportunities. Ashly continues her studies at Ivy Tech Community College's nursing program while working two part-time jobs.

Tylor Williams- A.K. Smith Career Center

Tylor displayed a great deal of leadership in the Welding program at A.K. Smith Career Center. He was nominated for the Technical Honor Society and received the Student of the Semester award. His drive and commitment to his career path led to his enlistment in the military one month after graduation. His skill set has grown through job shadowing, internship work, and additional training. Tylor is employed as a welder/machinist in the National Guard.

Alicia Wood- Porter County Career & Tech Center (PCCTC)

Alicia's lifelong goal to become a nurse came when she was a patient in the hospital at 13 years old. It was then that she realized how truly important nurses are. She attended PCCTC where she spent one year in Health Science and a second year in Health Occupations. Her current position as a CNA, specializing in Alzheimer's Care at Golden Living Center in Portage, has really given her the opportunity to put her skills to practice. She received multiple scholarships for college and now attends Indiana University Northwest (IUN) to earn her RN. Her passion for fundraising and coordinating events gave her the opportunity to be elected treasurer of the IUN Red Cross Club. Alicia is active on campus as a member of the Student Nurses Association, IUN Community Garden, and National Society of Leadership and Success. She is committed to her career and is willing to face the challenges in the nursing program to fulfill her goals.

Created by a unanimous vote of the 2013 General Assembly. The Works Councils further the Governor's ideals of technical training options which encourage all students to achieve with a personal "Plan A" providing opportunity for success whether they want to go to college, learn a trade, or start their career right out of high school.

The Works Council of Northwest Indiana promotes a wide array of Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways for high school students in the region. They connect with employers to encourage the development of new programs and curricula to meet technical skills needs and link to advanced certifications.

For further information about the Works Council, visit
<http://www.in.gov/irwc/region1/>
Questions? Call 219-462-2940